

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 35 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-13, 14, 16, 17, 34, 37-39, 43-47, 49 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuno (U.S. 5,851,906) in view of Hymes (U.S. 6,324,715). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Mizuno teaches a method of introducing an impurity. The Official Action, however, acknowledges that Mizuno fails to teach dipping the surface of a solid substance into a reductive liquid. Thus, Mizuno was combined with Hymes. The Official Action states that Hymes discloses applying a scrubbing action on both sides of a wafer using a liquid containing aqueous ammonia and hydrogen fluoride.

Applicants' previously pending claim 4 recited a Markush Group that included aqueous ammonia, hydrogen fluoride, sodium hydroxide, sulfinic acid, and adipic acid di-2-ethylhexyl ester. The Official Action identified a reference that only included two of those materials, namely the aqueous ammonia and the hydrogen fluoride. Thus, applicants are overcoming the rejection by removing the aqueous ammonia and the hydrogen fluoride from the language of claim 4 and then incorporating the remaining language of claim 4 into claim 1. Thus, applicants' claim 1 has now been amended to recite that:

... the reductive liquid is at least one liquid selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sulfinic acid, and adipic acid di-2-ethylhexyl ester.

The above materials are neither disclosed nor suggested by Hymes. Accordingly, claim 1 is now patentable over the combination of Mizuno and Hymes.

The remaining independent claims have been amended similarly to claim 1. Thus, the remaining independent claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

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The dependent claims that previously recited the Markush Group referred to above have now been cancelled as the language of those claims has been incorporated into the independent claims.

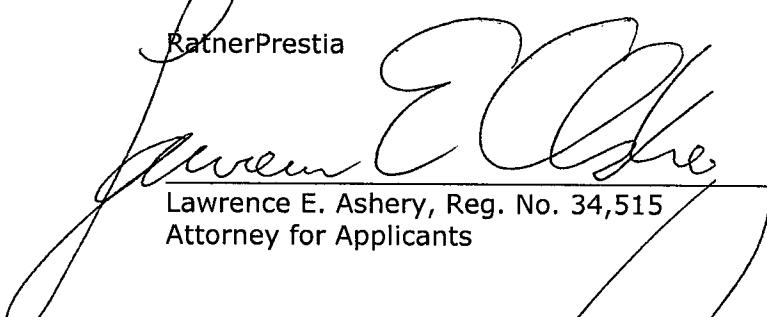
The dependent claims referred to in the rejection statement are now allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claims 7-9, 40-42 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuno, Hymes, and NTT Corp. (JP 07094427). Those claims, however, are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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